

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.909**

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TO:	The Honorable John E. Courson, Chairman, Senate Education Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Bryce Wilson		
DATE:	February 5, 2008	SBD:	2008070

AUTHOR:	Senator Bryant	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	59-111-25
SUBJECT:	Scholarships for National Guard Bronze Star Recipients		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill would amend the Code of Laws by adding a provision that would grant members of the South Carolina National Guard or Reserve Components that are awarded a Bronze Star Medal or higher military award for combat operations free tuition to any state supported college, university or technical education institution.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

The impact of this Bill would be in the form of lost tuition revenue to the state's public colleges and is estimated to be at least \$47,367 annually ($2,879 \times .3\% \times \$5,263$). The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) indicates there are 2,879 veterans, reservists, and guardsmen presently enrolled in the state's 33 public institutions and receiving veteran benefits. The SC National Guard estimated that of the 8,000 members deployed since September 11, 2001, about 25 have received the Bronze Star to date. This equates to an award rate of .3% ($25/8,000$). The average tuition at the state's colleges and universities (including technical colleges) is approximately \$5,263. Tuition schedules may have to be adjusted if the loss of revenue becomes significant to any one institution.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget